

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8510

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, GK

SUBJECT: EC-GREECE RELATIONS

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 9461, DEC 3, 1974

B) ATHENS 1706

1. SUMMARY: AN EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED US THAT GREECE IS STILL PUSHING FOR EARLY ACCESSION TO THE COMMUNITY BUT THE GREEK TIMETABLE SEEMS OVERLY AMBITIOUS. THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT EXTENDING THE GREEK/EC ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT TO THE UK, DENMARK, AND IRELAND IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL. THE NEXT STEP IS DISCUSSION OF AGRICULTURAL, HARMONIZATION AND A NEW FINANCIAL PROTOCOL BUT BOTH WILL BE TIME CONSUMING. END SUMMARY.

2. MISS NIELSEN, WHO COVERS EC-GREECE RELATIONS FOR THE EC COMMISSION DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND WHO JUST RETURNED FROM A GREECE-EC ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING IN ATHENS, HAS GIVEN US THE FOLLOWING RUNDOWN ON

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GREEK-EC RELATIONS:

3. ACCESSION. MISS NIELSEN SAID THE GREEKS WERE GETTING IMPATIENT AND SHE BELIEVED THEY INTENDED TO ASK THAT ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR WITH THE HOPE THAT THEY COULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1977. MISS NIELSEN BELIEVES THIS IS AN OVERLY AMBITIOUS SCHEDULE AND SHE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE EC MEMBER STATES, WHO ARE STILL DIGESTING THEIR LAST EXPANSION, ARE READY TO MOVE THAT QUICKLY ON A GREEK REQUEST.

4. EXTENTION OF GREEK ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT TO ENLARGED COMMUNITY. MISS NIELSEN CONFIRMED THAT THE GREEK/EEC ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE HAS INITIALED THE PROTOCOL EXTENDING THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT TO THE UK, DENMARK AND IRELAND. SHE EXPECTS THE SIGNING TO OCCUR IN APRIL AT A MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL AND SHE DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY PROBLEMS. SHE NOTED THAT SIGNING COULD BE AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL.

5. EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB) LOANS. MISS NIELSEN SAID THE NEGOTIATION OF A NEW FINANCIAL PROTOCOL CONTINUED TO BE A PRIORITY ITEM BETWEEN THE EC AND GREECE. SHE EXPECTS A FIVE YEAR COMMITMENT WILL BE MADE. WHILE IT IS PREMATURE TO ATTEMPT TO SET A FIGURE FOR EIB LENDING SHE NOTED THAT THE 1962 FIVE YEAR AGREEMENT WAS FOR 125 MILLION DOLLARS. IT WAS HARD TO SEE, SHE SAID, HOW ANY NEW AGREEMENT COULD BE FOR LESS THAN THAT. AN UPPER RANGE COULD BE SET BY TRYING TO PROJECT A FIGURE REPRESENTING HOW MUCH GREECE WOULD BENEFIT FROM ACTUAL MEMBERSHIP, PERHAPS USING THE IRISH EXPERIENCE AS A GUIDELINE. THE EIB CREDIT COULD BE SOMEWHAT BETWEEN THESE FIGURES. SHE CAUTIOUSLY SUGGESTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE CONCLUDED THIS YEAR AND THAT REATIFICATION BY THE MEMBER STATES MIGHT BE CONCLUDED DURING 1976.

6. HARMONIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICIES. MISS NIELSEN SAID THIS REMAINED THE MOST DIFFICULT QUESTION. SHE NOTED THAT THE COMMUNITY AND GREECE HAD BEEN WORKING ON THIS FOR FIVE YEARS WHEN THE AGREEMENT WAS FROZEN IN 1967 AND THAT A GREAT DEAL REMAINED TO BE DONE. SHE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THE PROCESS MIGHT BE LESS STICKY THIS TIME AROUND SINCE THE GREEKS APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN THE PLLITICAL DECISION THAT AN EARLY CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATION IS IN THEIR INTEREST.

7. MISS NIELSEN ASSURED US THE COMMUNITY IN GENERAL AND THE COMMISSION IN PARTICULAR WERE ANXIOUS TO BE FORTHCOMING AND MOVE RAPIDLY ON CURRENT ISSUES INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY

AND GREECE. MUNDANE CONSIDERATIONS, HOWEVER, SUCH AS A SHORTAGE OF AVAILABLE MANPOWER ON BOTH SIDES, LIMITS THE SPEED AT WHICH ONE COULD PROCEED. GREENWALD

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